

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 00996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENERGY ACTIVITIES: FOLLOW-UP TO LTEA

REF: USOECD 29943

1. SUMMARY. LANTZKE HAS ASKED FOR US REACTION TO HIS PROPOSED MEANS OF HANDLING FOLLOW-UP TO LONG-TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT, DESCRIBED IN PARA 2. ACTION REQUESTED: RESPONSE TO SUGGESTIONS ASAP, SINCE PAPER IS TO BE DISTRIBUTED BEFORE END OF JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

2. LANTZKE HAS ASKED FOR US REACTION TO FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR FOLLOW-UP TO LONG-TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT, WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY (RATHER THAN JAN. 21 AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED).

(A) COUNCIL WOULD ENDORSE LTEA MAIN POLICY ISSUES PAPER OF SECGEN, C(74)193. POLICY ISSUES AS DESCRIBED
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ARE TAKEN FROM LTEA ITSELF AND REFLECT DISCUSSION AT

OCTOBER EXPERTS MEETING ON LTEA. LANTZKE THEREFORE
VIEWS ENDORSEMENT AS INNOCUOUS.

(B) COUNCIL WOULD AGREE TO FORWARD LTEA TO IEA
GOVERNING BOARD FOR LATTER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN
DEVELOPING ITS WORK PROGRAM.

(C) COUNCIL WOULD AGREE TO ESTABLISH OECD ENERGY
POLICY COMMITTEE IN PLACE OF PRESENT ENERGY AND OIL
COMMITTEES AND TO CHARGE ENERGY POLICY COMMITTEE WITH
RESPONSIBILITY FOR UPDATING LTEA. UPDATING WOULD REFER
TO PARTS I AND II OF LTEA, CONCERNING PROJECTIONS OF
EFFECTS OF OIL PRICES AND POTENTIAL FOR CONSERVATION
AND PRODUCTION, AND NOT PART III ON POLICY OPTIONS.

(D) COUNCIL WOULD ALSO ASK OTHER COMMITTEES OF OECD
TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF ENERGY SITUATION RAISED
BY LTEA. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE
ASKED TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS IN WHICH ENVIRON-
MENT POLICIES COULD SUPPORT ENERGY AS WELL AS ENVIRON-
MENT OBJECTIVES, AND TRADE COMMITTEE MIGHT BE ASKED TO
LOOK AT POSSIBILITY OF MUTUAL OBLIGATION AMONG OECD
COUNTRIES TO ASSURE THAT EXPANDED ENERGY PRODUCTION
WITHIN OECD AREA WOULD NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY
RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE IN ENERGY PRODUCTS.

3. COMMENT. MISSION BELIEVES LANTZKE'S PROPOSALS ARE
REASONABLE APPROACH TO LTEA FOLLOW-UP. IF MANDATE OF
NEW ENERGY POLICY COMMITTEE IS PROPERLY DRAFTED, ANOMALY
OF SEPARATE OIL AND ENERGY COMMITTEES IN PRESENT OECD
STRUCTURE WOULD BE CORRECTED WITHOUT CONFLICTING WITH OR
DUPLICATING IEA. ACTUAL ROLE OF NEW COMMITTEE SUGGESTS
THAT WORD "POLICY" MIGHT BETTER BE LEFT OUT OF ITS NAME,
ALTHOUGH MANDATE RATHER THAN TITLE IS CLEARLY CRUCIAL
QUESTION.

4. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE QUICK RESPONSE TO LANTZKE'S
SUGGESTIONS. WHILE DISCUSSION IN COUNCIL WILL NOT TAKE
PLACE UNTIL FEBRUARY, LANTZKE MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS
BEING PRESSED TO GET PAPER DISTRIBUTED BEFORE END OF
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JANUARY.
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